

## Daniel 43 – Preparing for Antichrist's Forerunner

Dr. Leon L. Sanders  
Daniel 8:1-8

### Prologue: Let Context Speak for Itself – Confusion of Misapplication

- Daniel then writes a phrase that has become a source of great confusion since Pentecost: "time, times, and half a time"
  - Proper hermeneutics would continue the meaning of time in the same sentence with its previous usage in the same conceptual framework: Time as a totality of God's purpose which Satan and sinners seek to redefine (to avoid judgment)
  - Daniel's writing shows Satan nearly achieves his goal by using an idiom that almost adds up to three (Completion): Time (1); times (2) and Half-a-time (just when he believes he is successful, Satan realizes failure)
  - Satan confuses control with power: he is allowed control, but he has no power since that is an attribute of God alone; demonstrated at Christ's Second Advent
  - Confusion arises by conflating this idiom with Daniel's discussion of weeks of years, actual chronology in a later discussion; this forces an erroneous conclusion which God never intended: A forced 3.5 year meaning in this text (2013:21)

### Prologue: **Proper** Hermeneutics Explains History – Our Times Are A-Changin'; Not

- Bob Dylan wrote, "The Times They Are A-Changin'"; but they are not (2013:11)
  - Satan's goal never changes, only his stage dressing: History
  - As he refines his control over Man, he comes closer to realizing his dream of redefining times and law to avoid his judgment
  - Yet, he remains a slave to his sin nature; he knows the futility of his actions (2013:12)
- Our times are merely the unveiling of sinner's truth to unleash their hatred against God, whom they cannot see, by attacking believers, whom they CAN see (2013:11, 2013:24)
  - As we see the Day (Judgment Period) approaching, we are to cling more closely to Christ and True Believers (Great Tribulation; Millennial Kingdom) (2013:27, 2013:28, 2013:29, 2013:30)
  - Times are not a-changin'; history details Satan's changing of "time and times;" the "half-a-time"; Bible history details its end in Satan's failure and God's Victory

### Daniel's Second Vision: Futility of Victory – Certainty of Defeat

- Two years after his Vision of Empires in Belshazzar's 3<sup>rd</sup> year: Decade Before Fall of Babylon – Belshazzar's Death
- Transported, in vision, to Citadel in Susa, Elam province, on banks of Ulai Canal which divides Susa
- Minor city in Daniel's day; but extensive history: Legitimization – Justification
- Palace city (Winter) of future Persian Empire (Book of Esther)
- Apropos as vision pertains to Persia, not Babylon



### Persian Male Sheep (Ram): Unequal Horns – Media ↓ and Persian ↑

- Decade before Babylon's defeat Daniel sees futility of Persian victory by viewing its defeat
- Cyrus, representative King, defeated: Lydia (N), Egypt (S) and Babylon (W) (Cyrus killed dealing with eastward rebellion) First Super-Power
- Cyrus attributed victories to himself, Satan took credit also, but God allowed... 54:1-2
- Persia's decline began: Xerxes' Grecian defeat
- Persian army inept before 10,000 hoplites who marched through Persia returning to Greece
- Ineptness of Persian tactics against hoplites which Alexander exploited: Daniel's vision



Ram Represented Medo-Persian pastoral mountainous origins

### Grecian Male Goat: Single Great Horn – Alexander

- Goat's single large horn represented Alexander
- Alexander's brazen tactics defeated Persia in three years, backed by Satan; God allowed...
- Lack of self-control brought his death: Poisoned for hedonism or due to drunken religious parties
- Alexander's lack of administrative apparatus also resulted in an unstable government
- At his death Empire disintegrated into four regions with frequent wars for power
- Hellenism's Intermecine wars set them up for eventual Roman subjugation (Always foreigner)



Goat Represented Macedonian's craggy mountainous origins

## Clash of Cultures: Failure of Hellenistic Empirism – Division

- God focusing our attention on the change between these two kingdoms
  - Transition of Babylon to Persia was similar semi-oriental cultures though shifted from Semitic to Japhetic (Reference Noah's prophecy) (14:13-14)
  - Transition of Persia to Hellen was a Japhetic debasement observed in Nebuchadnezzar's vision: Silver to Bronze or Precious, decorative, to Utilitarianism
  - Hellenism's foundational philosophy unstable evidenced by continual wars between various city-states; just as between Alexander's successor generals
  - Hellenism's proclaimed superiority labeled all other cultures as barbarians, inferior
  - Hellenism's paganism with philosophical intellectualism produced weakness
  - Alexander represented this instability: Trained by Aristotle, declared himself as god[!]; (Zeus' son, Hercules, Amun-Ra, etc.)
  - Death proved him no god: he would meet God to know Truth (14:13-26; 10:1-13;4:8)

## Failure of Hellenistic Empire: Success

- Hellenism's influence extended well beyond its limited borders
- Hellenism contained the seeds that prepare for the Antichrist
- It laid the foundation legitimizing Roman expansion
- Roman, borrowing from Etruscan, Persian and Hellenism influences the world, even now
- Daniel's vision begins detailing coming Antichrist's Empire



## Understand the Vision: Understand the Future

- Jewish Captivity a forerunner of Jewish Diaspora for rejecting and murdering Messiah which continues today (14:13-26; 10:1-13)
  - Understanding this vision requires not just enthusiasm and biblical knowledge; one needs correct hermeneutics with cultural and historical knowledge
  - True extent of Hellenistic influence escapes modern intellectuals consumed with their own superiority; a gift from Hellenism (Barbarian) (14:13-26; 10:1-13; 4:8-12)
  - The failed governmental philosophies of Hellenism continue to fail today giving way to internal-external strife and tyranny with consent of the governed
  - Today's marriage of paganism (Luciferianism) and intellectualism devolves into fragmenting scientific myths contrary empirical observations (Science) (14:13-26)
  - Vision shows us God's means of marking time in addition to natural processes; requires the reader to grasp Hebrew worship practices and idioms